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2446				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/611,962	INOUE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	GERALD SMARTH	2446	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2010.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 and 11-15 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 11-15 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. It is hereby acknowledged that 10/611962 the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file: Amendment date 03/08/10.

**Request for Continued Examination**

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/08/10 has been entered.

**Response to Arguments**

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 11-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant asserts that the claim element “**electronic mail receiving means...; managing means...; print means...**” is a means (or step) plus function limitation that invokes 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. However, it is unclear whether the claim element is a means (or step) plus function limitation that invokes 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, because the claim does not clearly state means for. If applicant wishes to have the claim limitation treated under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, applicant is required to:

(a) Amend the claim to include the phrase “means for” or “step for” in accordance with these guidelines: the phrase “means for” or “step for” must be modified by functional language and the phrase must **not** be modified by sufficient structure, material, or acts for performing the claimed function; or

(b) Show that the claim limitation is written as a function to be performed and the claim does **not** recite sufficient structure, material, or acts for performing the claimed function which would preclude application of 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. For more information, see MPEP § 2181.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Art Unit: 2446

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 1, 7 & 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

**Claim 11** uses the phrase “A print service program for causing a computer ...to execute:”

This claim is considered to be directed to software since it lacks the hardware or components to be considered a machine.

The claim is directed to software to use a computer to execute the steps in the claim, (example: “an electronic email reception step...”, “a user ID creation step....”, “a user id transmission step...”, “a data accumulation step...”). The steps are considered to also be instructions. Thus these set of claims are considered to non-statutory under 101.

**Claim 12** uses the phrase “A print service program for causing a computer...to execute:”

This claim is considered to be directed to software since it lacks the hardware or components to be considered a machine.

The claim is directed to software to use a computer to execute the steps in the claim, (example: “an electronic email reception step...”, “a user ID creation step....”, “a user id transmission step...”, “a data accumulation step...”). The steps are considered to also be instructions. Thus these set of claims are considered to non-statutory under 101.

**Claim 13** uses the phrase “A print service program for causing a computer...to execute:” The claim is directed to software to use a computer to execute the steps in the claim, (example: “an electronic email reception step...”, “a user ID creation step...”, “a user id transmission step...”, “a data accumulation step...”). The steps are considered to also be instructions. Thus these set of claims are considered to non-statutory under 101.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-3, 11-13 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwase (US 2002/0046247A1), Watanabe (6877031) in view of Aziz(5604803),

Regarding claim 1, Iwase teaches a print service system comprising: electronic mail receiving means connected with a network, for receiving an electronic mail including

attached image data transmitted from a user through the network; (**Iwase discloses FIG. 6 is a diagram showing an example of the construction of a mail information database; FIG. 7 is a diagram showing an example of the construction of a storage destination specifying database; Paragraph 23 & paragraph 24**)

Print user designation; data accumulating means for storing image data received by said electronic mail receiving means for each user ID in said directory; (**Iwase discloses First, the user inputs a user ID and password by operating the touch panel 43a and operating panel 44 when the attached file stored in the Internet binder 3 is printed by use of the MFP4.; page 6 paragraph [115]**) and at least one print means connected with the network, for downloading said image data from said data accumulating means through the network when said user ID and said password are inputted, and printing said image data.” (**This is being anticipated by Iwase. Iwase discloses an electronic mail function is provided as one of the functions provided by the groupware server 2. That is, the groupware server is utilized by a personal computer or work station connected o the network.**” page 2 paragraph 44). (**Iwase also discloses he also claims, in the item of the password, a password given to the user is recorded. In the item of the user ID, a user ID given to the user is recorded. The user ID may be the same as the account name or may be different from the account name; page 4 paragraph 70, also see paragraph [64] for image data).**

Iwase does not specifically disclose managing means which creates\_a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, and transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address;

Watanabe does teach managing means which creates\_a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, (**Fig.3**) (***Wantanabe discloses the WWW application server 15 compares the user ID and the user password having been input with a user ID and a user password registered with and managed by a user information database (not shown). When the user ID and the user password input by the user are valid, a main menu is shown on a screen. When the user selects an electronic mail transmission option from the main menu, the electronic mail transmission service which will be explained below is provided; Column 7 lines 29-36***)

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase to include Watanabe's network photograph service system. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make this modification in order to have a system which can transmit images to different destinations in a more time efficient and cost effective manner. This will allow for the user to specifically create his or her unique username and password to be associated with emails being designated for him or her. This will be useful for creating user security of an individual's personal information content being stored on a server for example. *Wantanabe discloses however, it is time-consuming for the user to obtain a recording medium such as a CD-ROM after placing an order for a service to output an*

*image to the recording medium. It is possible to request the service to output images to a recording medium upon requesting image registration. However, in this case, since the image that is desired to be attached to an electronic mail message is not determined at the time of the request for image registration, all the images end up being recorded, which is costly; Column 1 lines 35-46.*

Iwanna nor Watababe explicitly discloses in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, and transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address;

However Aziz does teach in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, **(A client workstation provides a login address as an anonymous ftp (file transfer protocol) request, and a password as a user's e-mail address. A destination server compares the user's e-mail address provided as a password to a list of authorized user's addresses.; Abstract)** and transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address; **(Aziz discloses the destination server then sends the PEM encrypted password random number, as an ftp file, over the Internet to the client workstation; Column 2 lines 31-35)**

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase, Watanabe's network photograph service system to include Aziz's method and apparatus for secure remote authentication in a public network. *One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to*

*make this modification in order to have a system which provides a secure way to acquire a password. See Aziz column 2 lines 15-20.*

Regarding Claim 2 Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz taught a print service system according to claim 1, as described above. Iwase also teaches further comprising usage guide displaying means connected with the network, for displaying a usage guide including information related to an installation location of said print means.

**(Iwase anticipates this by disclosing Fig.19 is a diagram showing a display example in which the file list received from the Internet binder 3 is displayed on the display section 43. In this case, a file can be selected by touching the file displayed on the display section 43 of the touch panel 43a. In the display example shown in FIG. 19, the above file selection screen is display section 43.” ;page 6 paragraph 120)**

Regarding claim 3 Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz taught a print service system according to claim 1, as described above. Iwase further teaches wherein: said print means includes a touch panel; and said user ID and said password are inputted from an input unit composed of a ten-key pad which is displayed on said touch panel. **(Iwase anticipates this by disclosing Fig 14. is a diagram showing a display example when a mail is received from the portable telephone 1 and log-in (access) is made from the portable telephone 1 to the groupware server 2. In the display example of Fg. 14, a user ID input column and a password input column are displayed.”**

***page 5 paragraph 100. Iwase further discloses the display section 43 is a display constructed by a liquid crystal display device containing a touch panel 43a;Page 3 paragraph 63 line 6-8)***

Regarding claim 11, Iwase teaches a print service program for causing a computer connected through a network with a print terminal which performs authentication using a user ID and prints designated image data, to execute: an electronic mail reception step for receiving an electronic mail including attached image data transmitted from a user through the network; **(Iwase discloses in the item of the password, a password given to the user is recorded. In the item of the user ID, a user ID given to the user is recorded. The user ID may be the same as the account name or may be different from the account name; page 4 paragraph 70.** The MFP4 transits the user ID and password and effects a process for connection to the Internet binder 3. If connection to the Internet binder 3. If connection with the MFP 4 is made, the Internet binder 3 transmits a stored list of files corresponding to the user ID transmitted from the MFP 4 to the MFP 4; **Page 6 Paragraph 118) a user ID creation step for creating, in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID for a mail address used by the user; (Fig.3) a user ID transmission step for transmitting the user ID to the mail address; and a data accumulation step for storing the attached image data for each user ID. (Wantanabe discloses the WWW application server 15 compares the user ID and the user password having been input with a user ID and a user password**

***registered with and managed by a user information database (not shown). When the user ID and the user password input by the user are valid, a main menu is shown on a screen. When the user selects an electronic mail transmission option from the main menu, the electronic mail transmission service which will be explained below is provided; Column 7 lines 29-36)***

Iwase does not explicitly disclose a user ID for a mail address used by the user; a user ID transmission step for transmitting the user ID to the mail address; and a data accumulation step for storing the attached image data for each user ID

However Wantanabe does teach a user ID for a mail address used by the user; a user ID transmission step for transmitting the user ID to the mail address; and a data accumulation step for storing the attached image data for each user ID. (***Wantanabe discloses the WWW application server 15 compares the user ID and the user password having been input with a user ID and a user password registered with and managed by a user information database (not shown). When the user ID and the user password input by the user are valid, a main menu is shown on a screen. When the user selects an electronic mail transmission option from the main menu, the electronic mail transmission service which will be explained below is provided; Column 7 lines 29-36 see Fig. 3***)

Iwanna nor Watababe explicitly discloses a user ID creation step for creating, in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user,

However Aziz does teach in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by

said user, (A client workstation provides a login address as an anonymous ftp (file transfer protocol) request, and a password as a user's e-mail address. A destination server compares the user's e-mail address provided as a password to a list of authorized user's addresses.; Abstract)

Regarding claim 12, Iwase teaches a print service program for causing a computer connected through a network with a print terminal which performs authentication using a user ID and prints designated image data, to execute: (**Iwase discloses in the item of the password, a password given to the user is recorded.**  
**In the item of the user ID, a user ID given to the user is recorded.** The user ID may be the same as the account name or may be different from the account name; page 4 paragraph 70. Iwase further discloses the MFP4 transits the user ID and password and effects a process for connection to the Internet binder 3. If **connection to the Internet binder 3. ; page 6 paragraph 118)** a an electronic mail reception step for receiving an electronic mail including attached image data transmitted from a user through the network; user ID creation step for creating a user ID for one of the attached image data and the electronic mail; (**Fig.3**) (**Wantanabe discloses the WWW application server 15 compares the user ID and the user password having been input with a user ID and a user password registered with and managed by a user information database (not shown).** When the user ID and the user password input by the user are valid, a main menu is shown on a screen. When the user selects an electronic mail transmission option from the main menu, the electronic

***mail transmission service which will be explained below is provided; Column 7***

**(lines 29-36)** a user ID transmission step for transmitting the user ID to a mail address used by the user; and a data accumulation step for storing the attached image data for each user ID.

Iwanna nor Watababe explicitly discloses in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, and transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address;

However Aziz does teach in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, a user ID and a password and a directory for a mail address used by said user, **(Aziz discloses a client workstation provides a login address as an anonymous ftp (file transfer protocol) request, and a password as a user's e-mail address. A destination server compares the user's e-mail address provided as a password to a list of authorized user's addresses.; Abstract) (Aziz discloses the destination server then sends the PEM encrypted password random number, as an ftp file, over the Internet to the client workstation; Column 2 lines 31-35)**

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase, Watanabe's network photograph service system to include Aziz's method and apparatus for secure remote authentication in a public network. *One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make this modification in order to have a system which provides a secure way to acquire a password. See Aziz column 2 lines 15-20.*

Regarding claim 13, Iwase teaches a print service program for causing a computer connected through a network with a print terminal which performs authentication using a user ID and prints designated image data, to execute: (**Iwase discloses an electronic mail function is provided as one of the functions provided by the groupware server 2. That is, the groupware server is utilized by a personal computer or work station connected o the network. (page 2 paragraph 44)**) and a data accumulation step for storing the attached image data for each user ID. a user ID transmission step for transmitting the user ID and the password which are made in the user ID creation step to the mail address of the user and the mail address of the third party; (**Iwase discloses he also claims, in the item of the password, a password given to the user is recorded. In the item of the user ID, a user ID given to the user is recorded. The user ID may be the same as the account name or may be different from the account name; page 4 paragraph 70 lines 29-36**)

Iwase does not explicitly disclose a user ID creation step for creating a user ID and a password for a mail address from which the electronic mail including attached

image data is transmitted by used by the user and the mail address of the when it is judged that the mail address of the third party is described in said judgment step;

However Wantanabe does teach a user ID creation step for creating a user ID and a password for a mail address\_from which the electronic mail including attached image data is transmitted by used by the user and the mail address of the when it is judged that the mail address of the third party is described in said judgment step;

**(Fig.3)(See Wantanabe fig. 3 column 7 lines 50-55 for attached image data)**

**(Wantanabe discloses the WWW application server 15 compares the user ID and the user password having been input with a user ID and a user password registered with and managed by a user information database (not shown). When the user ID and the user password input by the user are valid, a main menu is shown on a screen. When the user selects an electronic mail transmission option from the main menu, the electronic mail transmission service which will be explained below is provided; Column 7 lines 31-37)**

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase to include Watanabe's network photograph service system. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make this modification in order to have a system which can transmit images to different destinations in a more time efficient and cost effective manner. This will allow for the user to specifically create his or her unique username and password to be associated with emails being designated for him or her. This will be useful for creating user

security of an individual's personal information content being stored on a server for example. *Watanabe Column 1 lines 35-46.*

Iwanna nor Watababe explicitly discloses an electronic mail reception step for receiving an electronic mail including attached image data transmitted from a user through the network; a judgment step for judging in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, whether or not a mail address of third party described in a body of the electronic mail received;

However Aziz does teach an electronic mail reception step for receiving an electronic mail including attached image data transmitted from a user through the network; a judgment step for judging in response to the received electronic mail transmitted from said user, whether or not a mail address of third party described in a body of the electronic mail received; (**A client workstation provides a login address as an anonymous ftp (file transfer protocol) request, and a password as a user's e-mail address. A destination server compares the user's e-mail address provided as a password to a list of authorized user's addresses.; see Abstract)**

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase, Watanabe's network photograph service system to include Aziz. *One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make this modification in order to have a system which provides a secure way to acquire a passowrd. See Aziz column 2 lines 15-20.*

10. Claims 4-6, 14, 16 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwase (US 2002/0046247A1) in view of Watanabe (6877031) in view of Aziz(5604803) in further view of Fujii (2002/0138313),

Claim 4 states Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz a print service system according to claim 1, as disclosed above.

Iwase, Watanabe nor of Aziz explicitly discloses wherein when a mail address of a third party is described in a body of the electronic mail received by said electronic mail receiving means, said user designation managing means transmits a user ID and a password to said mail address of the another user simultaneously with transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address of the user."

However Fujii does teach wherein when a mail address of a third party is described in a body of the electronic mail received by said electronic mail receiving means, said user designation managing means transmits a user ID and a password to said mail address of the another user simultaneously with transmitting said user ID and said password to said mail address of the user." **(Fujii discloses details thereof will be described later, but the live casting server 7 sends various types of information required for receiving the provision of the live distribution, such as the shard password and a reservation ID (described later), to the electronic-mail addresses input in "List of friends" by e-mail. This mail is called notice mail;**

**Paragraph 64 lines 6-9)**

It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the communication system of Iwase, Watanabe, Aziz to include Fujii's information processing apparatus, recording medium and program. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to make this modification in order to have a system gives access to attachment or file to multiple users at a given time. *Fujii discloses conventionally, however, a service has not yet developed in which the contents of chatting performed in the chat space are collectively supplied to the providing source of the contents. In other words, when the providing source of the contents cannot participate in chatting, the providing source cannot check the content of chatting later; Paragraph 6.*

Regarding claim 5, Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz taught a print service system according to claim 4, as described above. Fujii further teaches where in said user ID and said password which are transmitted to said mail address of said third party said are identical to said user ID and said password which are transmitted to said user's mail address." **(Fujii discloses details thereof will be described later, but the live casting server 7 sends various types of information required for receiving the provision of the live distribution, such as the shard password and a reservation ID (described later), to the electronic-mail addresses input in "List of friends" by e-mail. This mail is called notice mail; Paragraph 64 lines 6-9)**

Regarding claim 6, Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz a print service system according to claim 4, as described above. Fujii further teaches wherein said user ID and said password which are transmitted to said mail address of said third party are different from said user ID and said password which are transmitted to said user's mail address." **(Fujii discloses details thereof will be described later, but the live casting server 7 sends various types of information required for receiving the provision of the live distribution, such as the shard password and a reservation ID (described later), to the electronic-mail addresses input in "List of friends" by e-mail. This mail is called notice mail; Paragraph 64 lines 6-9)**

Regarding claim 14, Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz a print service program according to claim 13, as described above. Fujii further teaches wherein the user ID and the password which are transmitted to the mail address of the other user are identical to the user ID and the password which are transmitted to the mail address of the user." Transmitting identical user ID and the password to said user mail address and of other user mail address is considered inherent for sending out the same user ID and password to multiple users. **(Fujii discloses details thereof will be described later, but the live casting server 7 sends various types of information required for receiving the provision of the live distribution, such as the shard password and a reservation ID (described later), to the electronic-mail addresses input in "List of friends" by e-mail. This mail is called notice mail; Paragraph 64 lines 6-9)**

Regarding claim 15, Iwase, Watanabe in view of Aziz a print service program according to claim 13, as described above. Fujii further teaches wherein the user ID and the password which are transmitted to the mail address of the other user are different from the user ID and the password which are transmitted to the mail address of the user." **(Fujii discloses (in this case, addresses of the users of the personal computers 4-1 to 4-3 have been specified), "Outline," and "Details." An area for inputting a reservation ID (ID supplied in step S25 shown in FIG. 7) is also provided in the display screen; Page 7 Paragraph 158)**

**Conclusion**

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Smarth whose telephone number is (571)270-1923. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday(7:30am-5:00pm)est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571)272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gerald Smarth/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446